

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus adapted to transmit an active substance in the vapour phase to an atmosphere, comprising an active substance incorporated in a sublimable carrier substance (12) and a heating element (4) that has a subliming effect on only part of the total sublimable carrier substance, carrier substance and heating element being arranged such that the sublimable carrier substance subliming at that part of the sublimable carrier substance affected by the heating element is replaced by further sublimable carrier substance.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, in which the heating element (4) applies heat to the carrier substance by physical contact with the carrier substance.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the carrier substance rests on a substantially horizontal surface, which is heated by the heating element.
4. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1-3, in which the substantially horizontal surface is the heating element (4).
5. An apparatus according to claim 4, in which the carrier substance forms part of a replaceable refill (2).
6. An apparatus according to claim 1, in which the carrier substance (12) is contained within a tube (10) adapted to be mounted substantially vertically in a support body (1), the tube being completely sealed except for a vent (13) at a lower end thereof, adapted to permit release of sublimed material, the sealing of the lower end being accomplished by a surface that is substantially horizontal and that is in intimate, heat-conducting contact with an electrical heating element (4), the support body comprising suitable electrical wiring (5) and connections (7) for the supply of heating electricity to the element.
7. A method of transmitting an active substance in the vapour phase into an atmosphere by incorporating the active substance into a sublimable carrier substance (12) and

heating the carrier substance by means of a heating element (4) with which it has contact, the carrier substance being arranged with respect to the heating element such that carrier substance that sublimates at the contact between heating element and carrier substance is replaced by further carrier substance.